

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

Unit Name and Number: WIU's #CDCA 180-1 & 180-2

Summary

Results of Analysis:

1. Do these areas meet any of the size requirements?
Yes for WIU 180-1.
No for WIU 180-2.
2. Do these areas appear to be natural?
Yes for WIU 180-1.
No for WIU 180-2.
3. Do these areas offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?
Yes for WIU 180-1.
No for WIU 180-2.
4. Do they have supplemental values? **Not Evaluated.**

Conclusion

WIU 180-1 has wilderness characteristics.

WIU 180-2 does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by:

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Date: 03-11-14

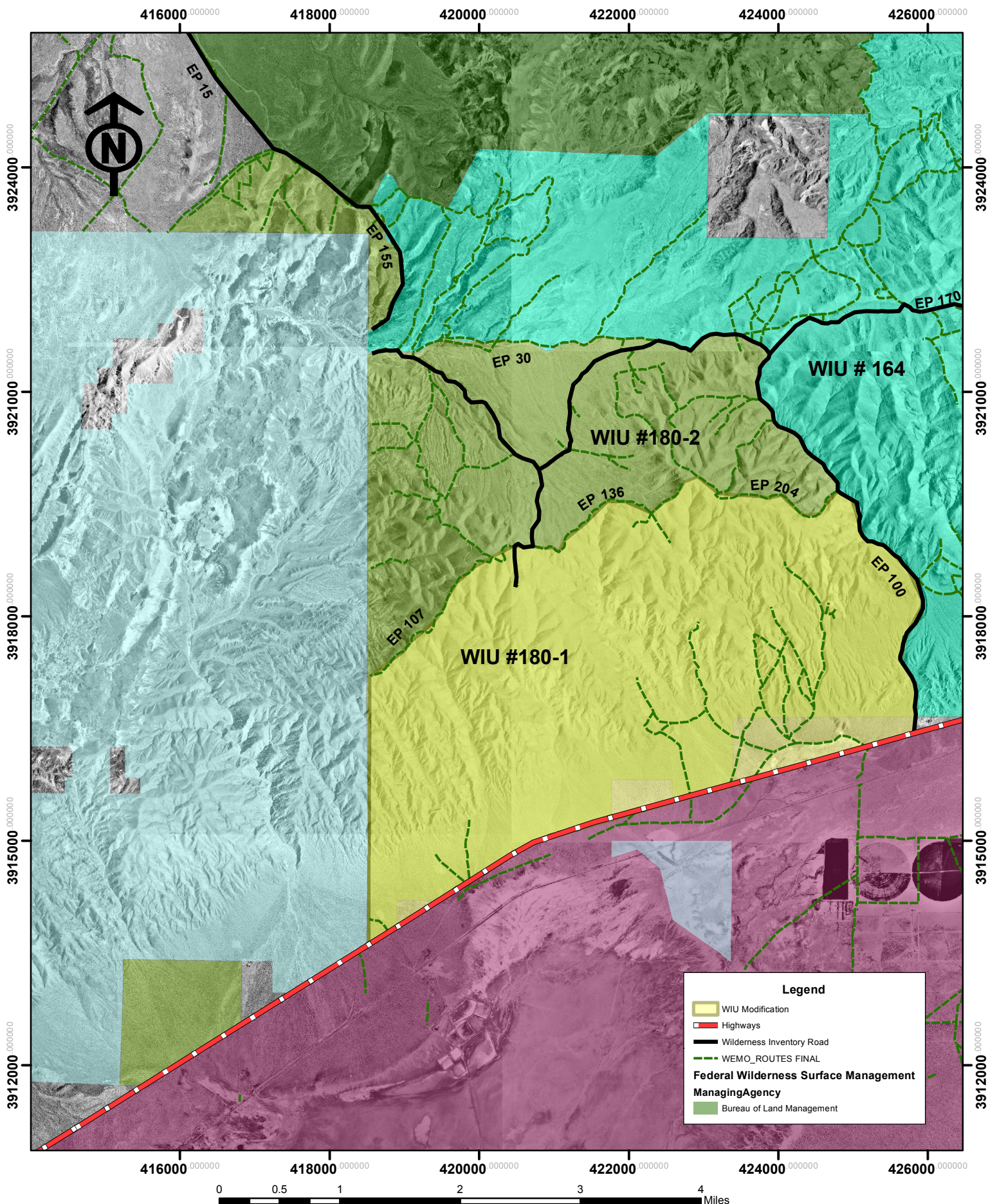
Approved by:



Field Manager

3/12/2014
Date

This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-2.



WIU #CDCA 180 (South El Pasos) Map
March 2014

Year 2014 Inventory Units Numbers/Names: WIU's #CDCA 180-1 & 180-2 (South El Pasos)

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings On Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area? Yes

Inventory Source: 1979 CDCA Wilderness Inventory Final Descriptive Narratives, BLM Ridgecrest FO

Inventory Unit Name(s)/Number(s): WIU's #CDCA 180

Map Name(s)/Number(s): USDI BLM CASO Wilderness Final Inventory, March 31, 1979

BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): Ridgecrest Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics:

Inventory Source: 1979 CDCA Wilderness Inventory Final Descriptive Narratives, BLM, Ridgecrest FO

Unit#/Name	Size (acres)	Natural Condition? Y/N	Outstanding Solitude? Y/N	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Y/N	Supplemental Values? Y/N
1979 Findings WIU #CDCA 180 (South El Pasos)	11,180+ (acres)	Y/N	N	N	N/A
2014 Findings #CDCA 180-1	Y ~6,275 acres	Y	Y	Y	N/A
2014 Findings #CDCA 180-2	N ~4,770 subdivided into individual units of ~525, 1500, 585, 1625, and 535 acres respectively.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Summarize any known primary reasons for prior findings in this table:

The original WIU #CDCA 180 was much larger than the ~11,180 acres of just federal land under consideration now. The unit encompassed all public and non-public land from the Last Chance and Mesquite Canyon Roads (segments of EP 15, EP 155, and EP 30 on the attached map) south to the Randsburg-Garlock Road (Highway) and from Highway 14 east to the Mesquite Canyon Road (EP 100). Approximately 20 percent of this original inventory unit was non-public land. Non-public lands were concentrated in the west along Highway 14.

The 1979 analysis was that the unit did not contain wilderness character although portions of the unit (principally to the west and now inside the expanded Red Rock Canyon State Park, California Desert Protection Act, 1994) were deemed to be natural. The area was described as containing a wide variety of geologic features from valley floor to steep mountains, to medium size volcanic hills, deeply eroded canyons and incised washes. The vegetation was described as being primarily creosote scrub with isolated Joshua trees at upper elevations.

The northeastern quadrant of the unit was found not to have wilderness character due to several operating mines in the area which dominated the landscape. In addition, it was noted that there were several permanent residents living in this quadrant who were actively engaged in working the mines. It was felt that the dominance of man's activity on the landscape, i.e., the heavy mining and permanent residences, did not lend itself to outstanding opportunities for solitude or unconfined types of recreation. The condition of the northeastern quadrant provided the justification to find the remainder of the area ineligible. The unit was subsequently dropped from further wilderness consideration.

In 1994, the California Desert Protection Act transferred 20,500 acres from the Bureau of Land Management to the State of California as additions to Red Rock Canyon State Park, including portions of WIU #CDCA 180, including most of Last Chance Canyon, located immediately east of Highway 14.

The original unit has been modified for this updated inventory to include federal lands only, comprising about 11,180 acres. The unit has been subsequently subdivided in the course of this inventory into two parts, one containing lands with wilderness character (WIU #180-1) and one containing lands without wilderness character (WIU #180-2). (See the attached March 2014 WIU #CDCA 180 (South El Pasos) map.)

FORM 2

Documentation Of Current Wilderness Inventory Conditions

Unit Number/Name **WIU's #CDCA 180-1 & 180-2 (South El Pasos)**

(1) Sufficient size

Yes for Unit 180-1.

No for Unit 180-2.

Acreage: Approximately 6,275 acres for WIU 180-1. Approximately 4,770 total acres for WIU 180-2, subdivided by wilderness inventory roads into smaller individual units of approximately 525, 1500, 585, 1625, and 535 acres respectively. These 2014 acreages were calculated using the measuring tool in GIS.

Boundary revision: **WIU 180-1** was split off from WIU 180-2, because of its distinctly different wilderness character. It is bordered on the north by a nearly continuous line of jeep trails identified on the WIU #CDCA 180 (South El Pasos) Map as EP 107, EP 136 and EP 204. It is bordered on the east by Mesquite Canyon Road (EP 100), on the south by the Garlock-Randsburg Road/Highway, and on the west by Red Rock Canyon State Park.

WIU 180-2 retains the original boundaries with the exception that its southern boundary runs along the near continuous line of jeep trails (EP 107, EP 136, and EP 204 that comprise the northern boundary of WIU 180-1. Its western boundary is Red Rock Canyon State Park. Its northern boundary follows wilderness inventory roads EP 15 and EP 155 and the Last Chance Canyon jeep trail (EP 30). And its eastern boundary is the Mesquite Canyon Road (EP 100).

Boundary revisions reflect current land status and exclude all private and state lands.

Description of Current Conditions

Land ownership: BLM (~6,275 and ~4,770 total acres, subdivided into 5 smaller units, for WIU 180-1 and WIU 180-2 respectively); private inholdings (0 acres).

Location: These units are located approximately 18 miles southwest of the community of Ridgecrest, 4 miles south of the El Paso Mountains Wilderness, between EP 30 (Last Chance Canyon) and the Garlock-Randsburg Road/Highway, and between Red Rock Canyon State Park and the Mesquite Canyon Road (EP 100). Ts. 28 & 29 S.; Rs. 38 & 39 E.

Topography: Unit 180-1 is characterized by valley floor rising steeply to extremely rugged and mountainous terrain. Unit 180-2 is characterized by broad interior valleys separated by hilly terrain.

Vegetation features: Dense creosote scrub to sparse Joshua tree woodland at upper elevations.

Major human uses/activities: WIU-1 is rather sparsely used. There are few jeep trails intruding on this area and the topography is rather severe. People would need to be on foot or horse and prepared to explore cross-country to see much of the area.

Most activity is centered on WIU 180-2 where there are several wilderness inventory roads providing easy access and the route network off of these roads is more dense. This unit supports off-road vehicle riding and touring, vehicle camping, hunting (birds), horseback riding, gem and mineral collecting, prospecting, and some mining.

(2) Natural condition

Yes for WIU 180-1. This is an area of extremely rugged and mountainous terrain with few manmade intrusions or developments. Most of it is inaccessible to vehicles.

No for WIU 180-2. WIU 180-2 has been subdivided into five smaller units by a number of wilderness inventory roads and Red Rock Canyon State Park. Two of the subunits are immediately contiguous with WIU #180-1, but have been split off from the unit because they do not share WIU 180-1's more natural appearance and character. Imprints of man are readily visible from most locations within WIU 180-2. Some active mining operations are still occurring within the area. Vestiges of past mining activity are also readily apparent. They include some large, heavily-disturbed areas, small prospects, isolated mine workings, shacks, dumps, and abandoned equipment. Several bird guzzlers are located within the unit. In addition, there is a relatively dense network of unmaintained, popular OHV (jeep) trails in the area. These trails support intensive OHV use by dirt bikes and quads, as well as by 4x4s.

(3) Outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Yes for Unit 180-1. Vehicle access is limited and opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding throughout most of the area, particularly in conjunction with adjacent State Park lands.

No for Unit 180-2. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation do not exist within these areas due to the existence of several wilderness inventory roads and the dense network of jeep trails, and the preponderant presence and use by off-road vehicles.

(5) Supplemental values

Not Evaluated.